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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2, 3 and 5-44. Claim 1 has been canceled in favor of new claim 44 to improve its form. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5-10, 13, 15, 19, 20 and 25-27, which previously depended on claim 1, have been amended to depend on new claim 44. These claims and claims 11, 12, 14, 16-18, 21-24, and 28-43 have also been amended to improve their form. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 12-14, 17, 20, 25, 29, 37, 40 and 43 were objected to because of certain informalities set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have canceled claim 1 in favor of new claim 44, and have amended the claims, including claims 2, 9, 12-14, 17, 20, 25, 29, 37, 40 and 43, to improve their form, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's objection to the claims on the basis of these informalities.

The Examiner indicated that claims 9, 20-25, 28, 29, 34, 40 and 43 contain allowable subject matter; however, claims 1-3,

5-8, 10, 13-19, 26, 27, 30-33, 35, 38, 39, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Beele U.S. Patent No. 4,702,444*. Claims 11, 12, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Beele* in view of *Joh. Valliant GmbH DE 91,01257*. Essentially, the Examiner's position was that *Beele* discloses the device and bush recited in the rejected claims except for the features recited in claims 11, 12, 36 and 37 which were said to be taught by the *Valliant DE '257* reference.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in new claim 44, Applicants' invention provides a device for covering and sealing a hole provided for leading cables through a wall including a retaining frame fastenable to an edge of the hole, a plurality of bushes made of an elastomeric material, and a plurality of frame openings. Each bush has at least one part including at least one passage opening for a cable, and each frame opening is open on one side for insertion in an insertion direction of a respective one of the bushes. At least one of the bushes insertable in the respective frame opening is fixable in place in the insertion direction near side

walls delimiting the frame opening, and each side wall includes a catch depression for accommodating catch organs projecting laterally partially above the bush surface.

As set forth in claim 30 as amended, Applicants' invention provides a bush for a cable lead-through device having a retaining frame provided with frame openings. The bush includes an elastomeric material, at least one passage opening for a cable, and two catch organs that project beyond the bush surface towards opposite sides, which can engage into catch depressions in the side walls of the frame openings.

In this way, Applicants' invention provides a cable leadthrough device and a bush for that device that is particularly suitable for switchgear cabinets. The device can be equipped with cables, and mounted on the switchgear cabinets in a particularly simple manner. Because of the interaction of the catch organs with the catch depressions, the result is achieved that at least one of the bushes that can be inserted into the frame openings, in each instance, can be fixed in place in the **insertion direction** in the region of the side walls that delimit the frame opening.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests a device for covering and sealing a hole provided for leading cables through a wall wherein the side walls of the frame opening are provided with catch depressions for accommodating catch organs that project laterally partially above the bushes as recited in new claim 44, or a bush for a cable leadthrough device having two catch organs that project beyond the bush surface towards opposite sides which engage into catch depressions in the sidewalls of the frame opening as recited in claim 30 as amended.

The primary reference to *Beele* discloses a cable conduit device and a bush for this device, in which bushes are inserted into a frame. The bushes and frames have grooves that are complementary to one another (grooves 7, 8), and engage into one another to form a seal. Although the Examiner has taken the position that the grooves 7 of the bushes of *Beele* are the same as Applicants' catch organs, it is respectfully submitted that this interpretation of *Beele* is incorrect.

Applicants' catch organs as recited in new claim 44 and amended claim 30 serve to fix the bushes in place in the insertion direction. In contrast, the grooves 7, 8 according to

Beele merely serve merely as guides for insertion of the bushes into the frame. Accordingly, fixation of the bushes in the insertion direction must take place by means of a pressure plate 10 in Beele, which plate is pressed onto the bushes by means of a screw that is guided in a sleeve (bushing 11). Accordingly, Beele is no more relevant than the prior art already discussed in Applicants' specification.

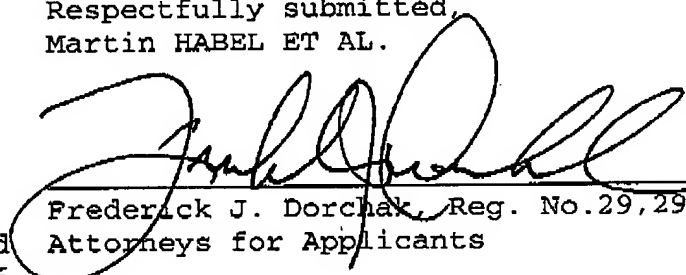
The defects and deficiencies of the primary reference to Beele are nowhere remedied by the secondary reference Valliant DE '257, which has been cited with respect to claims 11, 12, 36 and 37. There is no disclosure or suggestion in the Valliant '257 reference of a device for covering and sealing a hole provided for leading cables through a wall in which the side walls of the frame openings are provided with catch depressions for accommodating catch organs that project laterally, partially above the bush surface as recited in new claim 44, or of a bush for a cable leadthrough device having two catch organs that project beyond the bush surface towards opposite sides, which can engage into catch depressions of the side walls of the frame openings, as recited in claim 30 as amended.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 44 and amended claim 30, and the claims dependent thereon, are patentable over the cited references including claims 9, 20-25, 28, 29, 34, 40 and 43, which the Examiner indicated contain allowable subject matter.

In summary, claims 2, 3 and 5-43 have been amended, claim 1 has been canceled, and new claim 44 has been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Martin HABEL ET AL.

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802
FJD:djp



Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298
Attorneys for Applicants

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Frederick J. Dorchak